

usually obliged to procure evacuations by physic. About six months since, at Dr. Tracy's suggestion, I commenced the use of acids, particularly vinegar. My health, from that time, has continued to improve. I think I have not once been troubled with a sour stomach since I began the use of acids; my bowels move with regularity, and my youth seems renewed. Other causes may have contributed, in a measure, to the result which I have mentioned, but I attribute them chiefly, if not entirely, to the use of acids."

I might cite many other cases, but it is unnecessary. I have found vegetable acids uniformly and entirely successful in removing the disposition to attack of acidity of stomach, in persons who, during the intervals of such attacks, were free from all such symptoms, and my impression is, that in all *such cases* they can be relied upon with more confidence than any other remedy.

In cases of acidity, arising from pregnancy, I have found the sub-acid fruits of great service, while those that were tart could not be borne, and where mineral acids were decidedly injurious, and where alkalies or absorbents were of little or no avail.

Notice of a New Flexible Stethoscope.

To Dr. Hays, Editor of the American Journal of Medical Sciences.

MY DEAR DOCTOR—Will you do me the favour to publish under the head of American Intelligence, in the April number of the American Journal of the Medical Sciences, the following notice of a very ingenious modification of the Flexible Stethoscope. It is an highly important modification of the flexible instrument which has been in use, and must, from its great importance and value entirely supersede the objectionable European instrument.

If agreeable to you, Dr. Ludlow will probably furnish for the July number of the Journal, a full and detailed account of this very valuable American instrument, and which I know, from repeated trials, to be the *very best* which has been presented to the profession. It measures with accuracy the most minute differences of sound, and enables the auscultator to localize and *diagnosicate* with great nicety, the local lesions of the heart. Very truly yours,

C. W. PENNOCK, M. D.

484 Chesnut Street.

Having been for some time engaged in the investigation of the subject of *Stethoscopes*, I think I have at length obtained a *stethoscope* of the *flexible kind*, which will be found to answer the purposes of physical exploration, better than any instrument of the kind in use, and as well as can be done under any circumstances, by a *flexible stethoscope*.

The principal points in which I consider the improvements to consist, are 1st, There being a *homogeneous conducting substance throughout*, and that *substance* consisting of *brass*. 2d. The perfectly *conical figure* of the receiver of sound, and the *parietes* of the receiver being of a *definite thickness*. 3d. The *flattened state* of the *brass wire* for the tube to convey the sound to the ear, and a small *brass tube* to insert into the meatus auditorius. The receiver of the sound and the wire are *nicely adapted, the one to the other, and the flattened wire* forming a spiral coil, and the coils being kept in almost exact apposition, form together, from the flattened wire, as continuous a tube as can be formed in a *flexible*

instrument. The wire tube is covered first by green elastic cloth, and over this a slight webbing, which strengthens the tube, and prevents the separate coils from parting, or the tube being easily broken.

PHILADELPHIA, March 19, 1844.

J. L. LUDLOW, M. D.

Improved Cupping Apparatus. By R. J. DODD, M. D., Surgeon, U. S. N.

It has been observed by anatomists on dissection, that they have discovered well defined marks on the bones of the head, sacrum, spinous processes of the vertebræ, sternum and ribs, produced by the application of the common scarificator in the process of cupping, which in lean persons could scarcely be avoided.

Reflecting on the evil results, in many cases, of the application of the ordinary scarificator, and that many of the neuralgic pains of the head and back, might be attributed to the wounding of the fibrous expansion of tendons, the pericranium, &c., which can hardly be questioned, and their entire alleviation, difficult, if not almost impossible, I was induced to suppose that an apparatus could be so constructed, that those injurious results might be avoided, and at the same time all the advantages arising from the abstraction of blood in the vicinity of diseased parts, be attained.

I therefore took a straight glass tube, about six inches in length and an inch or more in diameter, having pending on one side an elongated spiral bulb to receive the abstracted fluid—each end has a metal cap fitted on, which is a screw—to the one end is attached a stuffing-box, through which a common air-syringe works as a piston, in the end of which is a circular disc set with lancets about a fifth of an inch in length; the other end, with its flat cap, is placed in contact with the part from which blood is to be abstracted; the air is exhausted from the cup, and the pressure of the external atmosphere on the air-syringe causes the lancet plate to approach the part raised in the cup and scarifies it; the air-syringe with the lancet plate is then drawn back to allow the blood to flow into the cup, and by a few strokes of the piston, the operation is continued until it is requisite to remove it, which is readily accomplished by the admission of air into the cup by a small screw at the side of the stuffing-box. If an internal part is to be operated upon, such as those in the throat, vagina or rectum, a tube of glass or metal, straight or curved, about seven or eight inches long, is screwed on instead of the flat cap, and a corresponding flexible metal lancet rod is attached to the air-syringe instead of the lancet plate, and the process of operation is the same as above described.

The advantages that this instrument possesses over all others now in use are, that the part is raised, scarified, and the blood abstracted at one operation, that internally as well as externally it can be applied, and that the parts only that are raised within the instrument are acted upon, avoiding injury to the subjacent parts, thereby preventing the evil consequences arising from the application of the ordinary scarificator.

There is also a large concave metal cap, having a hole in the centre sufficiently large to admit the nipple, which is applied instead of the flat cap on the cup, when it is considered requisite to abstract the milk from the breasts of women, from obstruction in the lactic ducts, or from tender nipples when the child cannot be applied, or in cases where the infant is unable to perform that office.